FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 FEBRUARY 1987

Egyptian-Israeli Talks

In a statement carried by Jerusalem radio, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres termed his talks in Cairo "very friendly." Peres called attention to several aspects of the joint communique which stresses the importance of direct negotiations and says that both sides "believe that it is necessary to take the steps that would promote the peace process." The document, which was read over Jerusalem radio, also reaffirms the joint communique issued after the Alexandria summit in September 1986.

Lebanon

PLO official Salah Khalaf told KUNA that four foreign hostages will be freed in the "coming few days." Khalaf said that the three Americans and an Indian, kidnapped from Beirut University College 24 January, are probably held by the Amal Movement or its supporters. The Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas* reported 25 February that some Western hostages were moved to the Iranian Embassy and to south Lebanon and that, according to "informed Arab sources," Syria is trying to reach an agreement with Iran that will allow Syrian forces to effect the release of some hostages.

In remarks to the French-language journal *Magazine*, Syrian commander Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an reiterated that he has no information on the hostages, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The radio also reported that Gen Kan'an issued a "final warning" that if gunmen in West Beirut do not release all kidnap victims, Syrian forces will "hunt down the kidnappers."

The security situation continued to improve in Beirut, Damascus radio reported, adding that some schools reopened and diplomatic personnel returned to their desks at embassies in the western sector of the city. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, a Syrian military source declared 27 February that the airport and all its access roads are "safe."

Regarding the camps war, a PNSF spokesman accused Amal of continuing its siege of Burj al-Barajinah camp, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported, adding that two people were killed in shelling.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian military statement reported by IRNA announced the successful conclusion of the Karbala'-5 offensive in the Shalamcheh region. The statement, which set Iraqi casualties at 56,500, advised supporters of the Baghdad regime to "come to their senses." A statement carried by INA announced that Iraqi warplanes attacked a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 27 February. A military spokesman for Iran denied that Islamic forces shelled Basra and that an Iranian warplane was downed, IRNA reported.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry cited by INA "welcomed" President Ronald Reagan's call for an end to the war and urged the permanent members of the UN Security Council to "follow the example" of the United States and the USSR. On the other hand, an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement condemned the "biased" U.S. position and accused Reagan of trying to divert attention from the "unfolding White House fiasco," IRNA reported.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd received Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, who delivered a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Riyadh radio reported, noting that Ramadan's delegation includes the Iraqi oil minister.

Morocco-Western Sahara

Moroccan soldiers suffered "hundreds" of casualties during a "major operation" in the El-Farsia area 25 February, according to a Saharan Defense Ministry communique reported by Algiers radio. A Moroccan communique broadcast by Rabat radio acknowledged that "extremely fierce battles" followed an "intensive" Polisario attack and announced that the Royal Armed Forces are in control of the defense line.

Pakistan

At least 35 people were killed and more than 200 wounded when 8 Afghan warplanes bombed 2 border villages in Miram Shah, KYODO reported. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo deplored the raid in remarks cited by Karachi radio. "We are determined to retaliate strongly," he declared.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told a Geneva press conference that his country would not object to quadripartite talks as suggested by Iran but that no such formal proposal has been received, Karachi radio reported. The minister "strongly rejected" charges that Pakistan obstructs the repatriation of Afghan refugees, and he stressed that Karachi maintains its "constructive" approach to the indirect talks.

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Defense Official Reviews Military Service Law

LD270741 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Kabul, February 26, BAKHTAR — The enforcement of the new law on military service in the DRA is the result of the legal growth and strength of the Armed Forces of the country as well as complete regard to the wishes of the people expressed through the commissions of national reconciliation, says Colonael General Mohammad Sadeq, deputy president of the Organisation and Mobilisation Department in the Defence Ministry of the DRA.

Further facilities and privileges have also been included in the law for the Afghan citizens who are passing their military services. Rights of those who were earlier (before the promulgation of the new law) joined the ranks of the Armed Forces of the DRA are also preserved, Sadeq said.

Decision on temporary leave and exemption from attending military service is also considered for sick people. School students are exempted until the end of their education provided that their ages do not exceed 20 years. Students of higher education institutes will be given temporary leave for those who are subject to military service and reserve service do not exceed from 25 and 29 years respectively.

Students of teachers of higher training institutes, religious schools and technical schools are also exempted provided that their ages do not exceed from 22 years. Also two brothers whose parents are sick or cannot afford their living will attend their military services on the alternative basis. Skilled officials and workers needed in the governmental offices or factories are also entitled to such temporary leaves, Sadeq went on to say.

Clergies who work as instructors in the religious schools and those persons who are not able to join military service because of health reasons are exempted for good. Those returnees from abroad under recruitment are exempted for six months from the date of their arrivals as well.

It is worthy to mention here that the term of recruitment and the term for military reserves without taking into consideration the combatant and non-combatant contingents is one year according to the provision of the new law, Sadeq concluded.

USSR, Kazakh Communications Ministers Arrive

LD232110 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications, met in his office today with Vasiliy Aleksandrovich Shamshin, minister of communications of the Soviet Union, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, both sides talked about communications cooperation and communications projects aimed at the growth of the communications sector. The Soviet side expressed readiness to cooperate with the DRA Ministry of Communications.

Deputy minister and heads of departments of the Ministry of Communications and also P. Mozhayev, Soviet ambassador to Kabul, were also present at the meeting.

According to another report, Vasiliy Aleksandrovich Shamshin, USSR minister of communications, arrived in Kabul today for an official friendly visit at the invitation of the DRA Government. He was welcomed at Kabul international airport by Comrade Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications, and other high-ranking officials of that ministry, and by P. Mozhayev, Soviet ambassador in the DRA.

The BIA report adds that the minister of communications of the Kazakh SSR Sabit Mukanovich Bayzhanov, is also a member of the delegation.

Communications Memorandum Signed

LD262246 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] This morning at the headquarters of the Central Committee, Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, met Comrade Vasiliy Aleksandrovich Shamshin, the USSR minister of communications, who is on an official and friendly visit to Afghanistan.

The BIA reports that at this meeting, which took place in a friendly and understanding atmosphere, views were exchanged on joint cooperation between the two countries in the field of communication services.

Present at this meeting were Comrade Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of communications; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the USSR in Kabul; and Comrade Tyurebayev, Kirgiz Soviet Socialist Republic minister of communications.

According to another report, Vasiliy Aleksandrovich Shamshin, USSR minister of communications and his accompanying delegation, today took part in a session — held in the Ministry of Communications — to assess the work of the Afghan and Soviet delegations. The minister of communications, the ministry's heads of departments and representatives of the respective institutions, took part in the work of the session.

At this session a memorandum on cooperation in the communications sector between the DRA Ministry of Communications and USSR Ministry of Communications, was concluded.

The documents of this memorandum were signed by Comrade Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, the DRA minister of communications, and Vasiliy Aleksandrovich, USSR minister of communications.

At the end of this session the delegation inspected the postal museum and the Afghan-Soviet friendship room in the Ministry of Communications. According to another report this afternoon the delegation visited the National Museum of Afghanistan.

President on Punjab, Pakistan, Economic Issues

BK230930 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has called upon all patriotic, secular, democratic, and progressive forces to unite to overcome the reactionary, fascist, and antinational elements who are misguiding and confusing the masses in the name of religion. He said the communal and fundamentalist forces aided and abetted by external elements are challenging our basic values of nationalism, secularism, democracy, and socialism.

In his hour-long address to the members of both houses in the central hall of parliament today, the president expressed serious concern over the situation in Punjab and said that the situation clearly calls for a reappraisal and the government proposes a national dialogue for this purpose. He said: In flagrant violation of the sacred tenets and traditions of the great religion founded by Guru Nanak, a small section has turned religious functionaries and holy shrines into instruments of terror and subversion. He said this is the central issue in Punjab today.

Giani Zial Singh declared that the government will not allow misuse of religion for creating communal disharmony and unleashing violence and hatred in Punjab.

Under the leadership of the chief minister, Mr Barnala, the state government and the people of Punjab have shown exemplary courage in upholding the values of secular democracy. He said the people of Punjab have always been in the forefront to defend the unity and integrity of India. They played a historic role in the freedom struggle. It is therefore not surprising that they have stood up to the blatantly unconstitutional effort to subvert the democratic process through sinister expoitation of religious sentiments.

The president said that as the nation approaches the 40th anniversary of its freedom, it is fully conscious of the dangers posed by religious obscurantism and communalism. He referred to the assassination of the father of the nation [Mahatma Gandhi] in 1948 and also Indiraji's [Indira Gandhi's] martyrdom and said these were to defend the sacred cause of the unity and integrity of India. He said there can be no better way of celebrating the 40th anniversary of freedom and the birth centenary of Jawaharlal Nehru than concerted and resolute actions to remove the cancerous cells of communalism from our body politic.

The president spoke of India's efforts to normalize relations with Pakistan. He said the main hurdles in the way of normalization are Pakistan's clandestine effort to acquire nuclear-weapons capability, its arms program with serious implications for our security environment, and its support to antinational and secessionist elements in Punjab.

Giani Zail Singh referred to the deployment of troops by Pakistan along the border and the initiative taken by the prime minister to de-escalate the situation and for withdrawal of troops. He said India is prepared to remove all causes of tension and distrust between the two countries in the spirit of cooperation embodied in the Simla agreement.

Turning to the major trends in the Indian economy, the president said that the growth in gross national product in 1986-87 will be around 5 percent despite an indifferent monsoon. The foodgrain output will be higher than last year and major policy initiatives have been taken to increase the domestic production of oilseeds. There has been impressive growth in areas like power, coal, steel, fertilizers, and electronics. The year 1986 will also be remembered for significant legislation affecting important areas of national life. The tax structure is being reformed and simplified.

Listing priorities before the government, the president said that national cohesion will be strengthened. Communalism will be fought tooth and nail. The antipoverty program will be implemented with vigor. The core sectors of our economy will be strengthened and expanded to ensure self-reliant growth. He said the energy and vitality of our youth will be harnessed to nation building. He said the spirit of sacrifice which permeated the struggle for freedom must be recaptured to face the challenges that confront the nation.

Home Minister Confirms 'Vigil' on Punjab Border

BK270921 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that strict vigil is being maintained on the Indo-Pak border in the Punjab sector to prevent any infiltration. This was stated by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, while replying to a question in the house.

Answering the main question, the minister of state for home affairs, Mr P. Chidambaram, informed the house that 79 intruders were killed during various encounters with the Border Security Force on the Indo-Pak border between November last to January this year. More than 1,000 infiltrators were apprehended during the same period. He also said that the Punjab sector of the Indo-Pak border was closed under the operational control of the Army last month. BSF [Border Security Force] who were deployed on the Indo-Pak border are constantly on the alert.

Ministers on Pakistan Nuclear Program; U.S. Bases

BK270918 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, told the Lok Sabha today that the Government of India is aware of the continuing efforts of Pakistan to produce nuclear weapons. He said India has credible information about the dimensions of Pakistan's nuclear program. Expressing concern over this, the minister said a constant watch is being kept on this aspect as it has a bearing on India's security.

In reply to a question, the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, said the government is fully aware of public opinion in this regard and action will be taken in case Pakistan manufactures a nuclear bomb, the minister declared.

In a written reply to another question on the reported U.S.-Pakistan secret agreement providing for deployment of U.S. Rapid Deployment Force on Pakistani territory, Mr Tiwari said

India is opposed to the setting up of foreign bases or facilities in any country. While India has conveyed its concern to Islamabad, both Pakistan and the United States have denied the existence of any such bases, he said.

Atomic Energy Official Discusses Nuclear Policy

BK260134 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0215 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Interview with outgoing Atomic Energy Commission chief Dr Raja Ramanna by Mukul Sharma; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Sharma] Dr Ramanna, how much has India compromised on its nuclear policy by submitting to these international discriminating safeguards?
[Ramanna] If we believe that atomic energy should be used only for peaceful purposes, and if one country gives assistance to another country in the form of a reactor, in the form of fuel, then there should be some international regime which will see that the fuel that is being given is not diverted. Many years ago we accepted safeguards on any fuel that we may buy from outside, in the hope that eventually all countries -- I underline all -- should also sign the safeguard agreements. But as it happened, now we have agreed to safeguards on any fuel that we are supposed to buy from outside, but there are group of countries which call themselves weapon countries and do what they wish. While we have not really compromised on any principles because we believe in safeguards, the countries who call themselves weapon countries have done nothing to come down to the international regime that we can finally outlaw weapons, nuclear weapons. And, therefore, while we have not compromised, the others have become more rigid in their attitude toward the application of safeguards for themselves. They have made some attempts to put one or two reactors under safeguards, and, well, the conditions they have applied to themselves are so free and lax that it does not mean anything. But the answer to your question, we have not compromised on safeguards in any way; but we feel sorry that five countries have decided to be the lawmakers and say that we are free from the law but all the others should follow the law.

[Sharma] Why is there a renewed talk again on both sides of the India-Pakistan border these days on the bomb?
[Ramanna] Well, I think the whole question of the bomb in the subcontinent has come about because Pakistan has claimed that they have built an enrichment plant. Now, an enrichment plant is one in which the uranium-235 content — you know that uranium consists of 235 and 238 — and it is the 235 content which easily fissions. Now an enrichment plant is one in which the 235 content is increased by some various physical processes, and this enrichment plant, in principle, can enrich the uranium to 90 percent of uranium-235. And if uranium-235 is increased to that level, it can be used for bombs. So, in principle, if you have a large number of enrichment units, the uranium can be made into weapon-grade quality, which can eventually be used for a bomb. Naturally, a neighboring country having nuclear weapons is bound to cause suspicion in the eyes of the people in the neighboring country, and hence a public debate is on as to whether we just watch one country developing weapons and the other is doing nothing about it.

[Sharma] Will this lead to a stage like in the U.S.-USSR relationship, you know why, because one side has the bomb, the other side has another bomb?
[Ramanna] We are poor countries, and we should not get into this kind of escalation, and the prime minister has certainly made one statement in parliament that if Pakistan ever explodes a weapon or a test weapon, India just cannot watch. It will have to reconsider its policy. But what that reconsideration means depends on how the two countries get together. But it is good that we have organizations like SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] where all this can be discussed between the countries concerned.

[Sharma] This is a silly question, but because of repeated denials, is it true that India will never make the bomb?
[Ramanna] I would certainly prefer an India which does not explode weapons and that we have to depend on nuclear weapons for our defense. [sentence as heard]

[Sharma] So would I, but it only depends on whether our neighboring countries develop a bomb or not.
[Ramanna] Well, I think I would like a universal regime that all countries give up nuclear weapons, because it will be a destruction of the whole world. It is not realistic, there is no victory in using nuclear weapons.

[Sharma] Yes, but what are these peaceful purposes that atomic energy is being put to?
[Ramanna] Electric power is one of the important contributions, and our program has become one in which we are 90-percent self-sufficient in all the components required for building a nuclear power station. Now, that is a fantastic achievement, which has not been achieved by many countries of the world except the superpowers and some of the advanced countries.

And testing leakages, seepings in dams — you know, water seeps in a dam — and you want to find out which part is seeping, isotopes can be used for this purpose. And to answer you, the amount of money has been made, for instance, in desilting harbors — you know, harbors that clog with silt — and in the old days we used to take the silt and dump it in a place by these dredging operations, and the next monsoon this used to come back (?as heavily) to the same place. Now by use of isotopes we know where to dump it so that it will not come back. And you can not imaging the crores worth of rupees that is saved in these dredging operations as a result of the use of radio isotopes.

In the old days everybody used to dump of lot of chemicals and nobody know what happened to the human beings. But after Bhopal and all those incidents, we know that chemical treatments are even more dangerous because it stays there in residual system where the radiation just passes and does not live a trace.

[Sharma) But why wasn't this radiation for food thing ever implemented?
[Ramanna] It is used practically in all the countries of the world except India, because somebody long ago said all these people suffering from malnutrition, this may cause more problems and never prove anything.

[Sharma] Obviously, the person who said that must have carried a lot of clout.
[Ramanna) Well, we leave it at that. [passage omitted]

DPRK Foreign Minister Arrives for Official Visit

BK260900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The vice premier and foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Kim Yong-nam arrived in New Delhi today on a 3-day official visit. He was received by the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari.

The two leaders are to have talks on bilateral matters and issues relating to the Nonaligned Movement.

Mr Kim told newsmen that he would also discuss with Mr Tiwari the agenda for the ministerial meeting on South-South cooperation to be held in Pyongyang from the 9th of June.

Holds Talks With Tiwari

BK261658 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The vice premier of Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Kim Yong-nam, had talks in New Delhi with the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari. Mr Kim Yong-Nam is also the foreign minister of his country. The two leaders discussed bilateral matters and the Nonaligned Movement. The forthcoming ministerial meeting in Pyongyang of South-South cooperation is also reported to have figured in the talks. The vice premier is on a 3-day official visit. He arrived in the capital this morning.

Lok Dal Party Splits; New President Elected

BK261628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The Lok Dal has formally split. A meeting of the National Executive convened by Mr Satya Prakash Malaviya, MP, in New Delhi this evening removed Mr H.N. Bahuguna from the post of acting president of the party.

Earlier, at a news conference Mr Bahuguna described the meeting of the National Executive as unlawful and unconstitutional. He said such a body never existed. First Mr Bahuguna, and later Mr Malaviya, who briefed newsmen about the deliberations of the National Executive, maintained that Mr Charan Singh is the president of their party. Both claimed to represent the real Lok Dal.

Mr Malaviya has said that the National Executive also revoked Mr Bahuguna's orders expelling from the primary membership of the party three general secretaries, Mr Ajit Singh, Mr Rashid Masood, Mr Malaviya and the organizing secretary of the party, Mr Ompal Singh. It recognized Mr Satpal Singh Yadav as the duly elected leader of the Lok Dal legislature party in Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

Indian Delegation Arrives for Talks on Pullout

BK261639 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1600 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] An Indian delegation arrived in Islamabad tonight to take part in the Indo-Pakistan talks on the de-escalation of border tension in various sectors, from Madhepur in the north to the Rann of Kutch in the south. The delegation is being led by the Indian secretary of external affairs, Mr A.S. Gonsalves. The talks will resume tomorrow.

A Foreign Office spokesman expressed the hope that the talks would prove successful and that the forces on both sides of the border would begin to withdraw to their peace-time positions.

Continuing Reportage on Indirect Talks in Geneva

UN Mediator Assesses Proposals

BK251550 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The seventh round of UN-sponsored indirect talks to seek a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue began in Geneva today. The indirect talks being conducted by the UN secretary general's personal representative, Diego Cordovez, will particularly discuss the ways to remove difficulties on the question of a timeframe for Soviet a troop pullout from Afghanistan.

The UN mediator addressed a news conference, before meeting informally with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the Kabul regime's foreign minister, Abdol Wakil. He said that an agreement on the timeframe would constitute a settlement of the Afghan issue. He said that both sides have brought with them new proposals on the timeframe which will be reviewed during the forthcoming talks.

Cordovez said that troop withdrawal means complete withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. He said that the two sides have reached agreement on various aspects of supervising the implementation of a settlement and this supervision will be done by the United Nations. He said that although the pace of progress of the talks had been very slow, considerable progress has been achieved, however, during the recent talks. He said that there has been considerable support for the indirect Geneva talks for a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue and the mujahidin are being consulted in this regard.

Yaqub Khan Press Statement

BK261603 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said Pakistan's approach to the current round of indirect Geneva talks on Afghanistan is as constructive as in the past. In a press statement issued in Geneva today, the foreign minister said Pakistan desires to carry forward these negotiations to arrive at an early comprehensive settlement of this problem.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Pakistan has had useful consultations with the Soviet Union on this issue. He had talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow recently. During these talks, the two sides clarified their respective viewpoints on this question and reviewed ways to narrow the differences between the positions of the two countries. Talks with Moscow are a continuing process as they are related to Pakistan's own security and to the alleviation of the suffering of the Afghan people, he added.

The foreign minister strongly rejected the Kabul regime's allegation that obstructions are being created in the way of those Afghan refugees who want to return to Afghanistan.

The Foreign Office spokesman also told newsmen that the Afghanistan tangle can be resolved soon if a reasonable timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan is presented at the indirect Geneva talks. Pakistan has always maintained that a settlement of the Afghanistan problem hinges upon the finalization of the issue of the timeframe. Replying to a question, the spokesman said Pakistan's stand is that the formation of a government in Afghanistan is an issue which has to be addressed by the Afghan people themselves.

Answering yet another question, the spokesman said that Pakistan would have no objection to attending a conference as proposed by Iran to solve the Afghanistan problem but Pakistan has not received any such proposal so far.

The spokesman also said that during past couple of days, prestigious Indian newspapers have published certain reports regarding Israel's contact with India in 1985 to seek the latter's cooperation in launching a preemptive strike on Pakistan's research laboratory. According to these reports, an Indian prime minister's personal representative had a 3-day meeting with an Israeli representative in Paris. He said Pakistan has noted the Indian External Affairs Ministry's rejection of these reports. Pakistan had received such reports in the past about nefarious designs to attack Pakistan's research laboratory, and it had declared at that time that any kind of attack on Pakistan's laboratory will be considered an act of aggression and it will given a suitable reply.

2d Day of Talks Detailed

BK261720 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1700 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The indirect Geneva talks between Pakistan and the Kabul regime representatives on the Afghanistan problem continued for the 2d day today.

The UN personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, who is working as a go-between in these talks, held a detailed meeting today with Abdol Wakil the Kabul regime foreign minister, and later had a brief meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. Later, he held another detailed meeting with the Kabul regime delegation. According to the *Associated Press of Pakistan*, the talks are expected to continue in the night as well.

Prime Minister Presides Over 'High-Level Meeting'

BK261208 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] A high-level meeting presided over by the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, was held at the Foreign Office in Islamabad today. Later, a Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen that the prime minister reviewed the latest developments regarding the Afghanistan issue in the light of the foreign minister's visit to Moscow and the indirect talks which began in Geneva yesterday. He said the dialogue between Pakistan and the Soviet Union is expected to make a positive contribution to the finalization of the settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

During the meeting the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the progress made since the 4th of this month in the implementation of the agreement about the withdrawal of forces from the borders of the two countries [Pakistan and India].

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, was also present at the meeting.

The Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen that Pakistan and India are to resume talks to arrive at concrete measures for de-escalation in various sectors from Madhepur in the north to the Rann of Kutch in the south. He hoped the talks would be successful and forces on either side of the border would begin to withdraw to their peace bases.

AFP: 53 Reported Killed in Afghan Border Bombing

NC261957 Paris AFP in English 1956 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Feb 26 (AFP) — At least 58 people were killed and 190 injured Thursday when Afghan warplanes bombed three Pakistani border villages, according to a reliable source in the surrounding Miran Shah region.

The source said 16 Afghan bombers in two formations of eight began 30 minutes of bombing at 12:20 pm local time (0720 GMT), hitting crowded bazaars in villages more than 10 kilometres (six miles) inside the border. Many of the victims were Afghan refugees, who form a large proportion of the population in the border towns. Sources said some hundred stalls were destroyed, 50 were damaged and cattle were killed.

A spokesman from the Pakistani Defence Ministry speaking on Pakistani radio put the casualties at 40 dead and 170 wounded. He said first reports indicated 10 Afghan planes had carried out the raid.

Jawar, one of the main bases for the Afghan mujahidin guerrillas, is just across the border from the villages, and the rebels have been very active in that sector of Afghanistan. The base has recently come under heavy attack from Afghan Government troops for the first time since Kabul offered a ceasefire and amnesty on January 15.

The attack could scuttle indirect Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva, observers said, where Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his Afghan counterpart Abdol Wakil both left a negotiating session Thursday refusing to comment on the raid. [passage omitted]

Islamabad said Afghanistan violated Pakistani airspace some 900 times last year, and has complained of several incidents this year, despite the ceasefire, although experts said that mostly it was simply a case of an Afghan warplane overshooting as it banked back towards Afghanistan.

Air raids have waned, but Thursday's was the most murderous since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Spokesman Comments

BK270111 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] About 35 to 40 people were killed and 170 others injured in an attack by 10 aircraft of the Kabul administration on (Moza Qilli Ghulam Khan) in Miram Shah area. A spokesman of the Defense Ministry told the Radio Pakistan correspondent last night that the dead were mostly Afghan refugees who were busy (?shopping) in the village's market. According to reports many of the injured are in critical condition.

Prime Minister's Instructions

BK270625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said that he has issued instructions that a strict watch be kept on subversive elements and they be identified so that they can be arrested before they indulge in subversive activities. He was addressing a gathering at Garhi Qamarddin village near Peshawar where many people were killed in an explosion on the 19th of this month.

The prime minister assured the people that the people affected by the explosion will be appropriately compensated and the houses damaged will be repaired. He added he had already issued instructions to the provincial government in this connection.

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said the present regrettable situation has arisen out of foreign intervention in Afghanistan which has forced millions of people to leave their homes and take shelter in Pakistan. He commended the spirit of the people of Northwest-Frontier Province for extending magnanimous hospitality to the Afghan refugees. The prime minister said Pakistan wants the refugees to go back to their country soon in honor and dignity.

Second Bombing in 24 Hours

BK271340 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb 27 (AFP) — At least 25 people were killed or wounded Friday as Afghan planes bombed villages in northwest Pakistan for the second day running, sources in the area said, quoting local officials.

The raid came soon after Pakistan strongly condemned Thursday's attack which killed some 60 people, and warned it could jeopardise current peace talks in Geneva.

The sources said Afghan aircraft dropped several bombs on villages in the Parachinar area, causing heavy casualties and destroying property.

Officials were awaiting details of the losses, which were expected to be high as the attack came immediately after Friday prayers.

One report said the bombs fell near two refugee camps and also hit the Saudi-aided Al-Jehad hospital, which caught fire. The reports said several charred bodies had been recovered from the hospital site while rescue work was in progress. The hospital has some Saudi medical staff. [passage omitted]

DAWN Assails Hinton Suggestion on Nuclear Issue

BK251531 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Feb 87 p 7

[Editorial: "A Question of National Choice"]

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has done well to respond promptly and unambiguously to the challenge posed by the observations made by the U.S. Ambassador on Monday (Feb. 16). Shorn of all its verbiage, the U.S. message boils down to a simple proposition: Pakistan should unilaterally sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if it really cares for the 4.02 billion U.S. military and economic assistance package for 1987-93. Mr Deane Hinton's warning is clear and straight: Unless Pakistan takes the cue and acts up to it, the U.S. President may not certify in 1987, which he has twice after 1985, that Pakistan does not have a nuclear device, and the Congress may not approve a special waiver of the "Symington Amendment," which it did in 1981. That would directly hit the multi-year U.S. aid package. The question is: What has changed since 1985? The U.S. Ambassador claims that Pakistan has "in hand, but not assembled, all the needed components for a nuclear explosive device." This could not have been possible to achieve for a country like Pakistan in just a few months after the U.S. President solemnly gave that certificate in 1986. Specially so, because of the stubborn refusal by the Western suppliers to provide Pakistan with any nuclear reactor or parts or equipment that could be used in a nuclear installation or facility. Thanks to pressure from Washington, for many years now Pakistan has been subjected to a virtual academic quarantine in the pursuit of nuclear science studies in Western seats of learning.

Pakistan's position on the nuclear issue has been above board and unequivocal and should occasion no anxiety in any quarter. It has accepted all safeguards laid down by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA). This Agency has been free to inspect nuclear facilities in Pakistan. For example, the IAEA had inspected 48 times by 1984 the nuclear power plant in Karachi. Even U.S. scientists have felt free to visit such plants in this country. Pakistan has also been playing a significant role as a campaigner against the deployment of nuclear weapons. It has been sponsoring at the UN Assembly, which has approved them with overwhelming votes, two resolutions since 1974. One calls for a nuclear-free zone in South Asia, while the other underlines the need for strengthening security guarantees to nonnuclear states (like Pakistan). Since 1982, this country has also been offering to India joint inspection of all nuclear facilities on a bilateral basis. India has not responded to it so far. In view of this known position, any unilateral signing of the NPT by this country militates against the principle of equality of sovereignty among nations. It is one thing to declare publicly against any intention to acquire nuclear weapons in any form, which we have done ad nauseum. But signing the NPT one-sidedly, foreclosing the country's freedom of action for all times to come is quite another matter, specially so in view of what has been happening so glaringly next door.

Mr Hinton has asked: would it be in Pakistan's best interest to push India to produce nuclear weapons? The fact is that India is in no need of such pushing. In 1985 India became perhaps the first Third World country to have conclusively demonstrated its double capacity for making bombs using either plutonium or enriched uranium. As everybody knows, capability in this field is almost as good as being in possession of the bomb. Mr Hinton has also made the point that the U.S. has "no nuclear cooperation with either Pakistan or India." There is a slight twist in this argument. Even if one can be persuaded to ignore the promised supply of U.S. super-computers to India, the fact remains that India, in its present stage of advancement in this sphere, can do without such cooperation. Here one might recall the 1965 moratorium on the supply of U.S. arms to both India and Pakistan. As Pakistan was entirely dependent on U.S. arms and spares, it was the one which suffered from the seemingly "even-handed" treatment.

All said and done, Pakistan has no alternative but to face up to the new prospect. If the choice is between aid and freedom, it should choose freedom everytime. It is indeed an open secret that the reasons for giving and receiving U.S. aid, specially the military variety, have been different for the two sides. We may have had our compulsions for seeking such aid. But the U.S. too had its "global strategy" to serve. That explains how President Carter, who suspended all assistance to Pakistan in 1979, was quick to set in motion a process, (after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan), that blossomed into a 3.2 billion aid programme for this country. It is thus a question of national political choice. Sooner or later, we have to face one brutal truth of international life: no nation can depend on the mere goodwill and assurances of another state for the defence of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. When the crucial test comes, a nation has to depend on its own resources for its security.

End of Karbala'-5 Operation Announced

LD262004 Tehran IRNA in English 1950 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA — Following the completion of the defence lines by Iran's Muslim combatants in the Karbala'-5 operational region, Khatem ol-Anbiya' Joint Army-IRGC Headquarters issued a statement Thursday evening announcing the end of the operations.

The final statement said that Muslim forces of Iran in the Karbala'-5 operations, launched in Shalamcheh region on January 9, dealt one of the severest blows on the Iraqi war machine in the history of the Iraqi-imposed war.

The operation was launched at a time when the Baghdad government was spreading extensive propaganda on the resistance power of its Army in an effort to inspire hope in its supporters and to take advantage of this propaganda in the summit meet of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Kuwait.

The statement enumerated the achievements of the Karbala'-5 operations as follows:

Objective: Destruction of the Iraqi war machine

Axis: Area between western Shalamcheh and east of Basra

Achievements:

-Liberation of 155 square kms of (enemy occupied) Iranian land and Iraqi territory.
-Liberation of Bawarin, Fayyaz and Umm Tavil Islands as well as the key region of Shalamcheh, Du'ayji township, rivers of Du'ayji and Jasim, part of the international Shalamcheh-Basra road. Iran's Muslim combatants, according to the statement, are in full control of these areas.
-Breaking through most fortified Iraqi defense lines set up by foreign military experts, nine kms deep inside Iraq. The statement said the enemy had despatched 140 combat brigades from various divisions of the Iraqi Army out of which, during one month of fierce battle, 81 independent brigades and battalions were totally destroyed and 34 others sustained as much as 50 percent destruction.
-Destruction of 700 tanks and armoured personnel carriers.
-Destruction of 1,500 vehicles of various kinds.
-Destruction of 250 various anti-aircraft guns and field artillery pieces.
-Destruction of 400 various engineering machinery and other military hardware.
-Seizure of 220 tanks and armoured personnel carriers intact.
-Seizure of 500 various vehicles intact.
-Seizure of 85 various anti-aircraft guns and field artillery pieces intact, as well as thousands of light weapons and ammunition.
-Downing of 80 warplanes, setting an unprecedented record.
-Downing of seven helicopter gunships.
-Inflicting 56,500 Iraqi casualties.
-Killing of 30 brigade commanders.
-Wounding of 26 brigade commanders.
-Capturing of 2,655 militarymen including two brigadier generals, five brigade commanders, two brigade deputy commanders, 40 ranking officers, 140 officers, and 600 non-commissioned officers from 80 combat units.

The statement added that simultaneously with the Karbala'-5 operations, the Iranian forces launched another operations code-named Karbala'-6 in northern Sumar Region further up the war fronts, inflicting more blows on the enemy troops. This, the statement said, proved that Iran's Muslim forces are ready to subject enemy troops to their constant attacks simultaneously in a number of different fronts.

In conclusion the Khatem ol-Anbiya' statement warned Baghdad regime's supporters that it was the time for them to "come to their senses" and discontinue their support for the tottering regime in Iraq.

Majlis Speaker on U.S. Attempts To Resume Ties

LD271501 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA — Majlis speaker and substitute leader of Friday congregational prayers said here today that what U.S. President Ronald Reagan said to pressmen Thursday had only served to demonstrate the truth of Iran's earlier claims in relation with McFarlane's travel to Tehran last year. He said the report of the Tower Commission on Iran-gate is principally Iran's report many months ago on the fiasco of the visit to Tehran by uninvited U.S. officials.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was sermonizing to a multitudinous group of worshippers at the compounds of Tehran university campus said in his (Reagan's) interview with pressmen Thursday, Reagan claimed not to remember some of his own words to his own aides in relation with the issue, which Rafsanjani said is a sign of amnesia on the part of the U.S. President.

Rafsanjani also said that in his evaluation of the Iran-gate and in his interview with the press earlier statements on the issue which he said demonstrates his confusion. He said from the outset of the war the Islamic Republic has not relied on imported weapons and that if it really needed to buy weapons from external sources the Islamic Republic would have long since accepted a ceasefire.

Majlis Speaker said ever since the outbreak of the war Washington did everything within its capacity to ensure that Iran would not buy weapons from any source.

Addressing himself to Reagan, Rafsanjani said that Washington has been fighting the Islamic revolution head on for eight years and that never during the Iraq-Iran war did it do anything to ensure an unhampered purchase of arms by the Islamic Government, let alone pass a bill ensuring the flow of a limited size of weapons to Iran. Rafsanjani scoffed at commissioning Shultz for pulling Iran to the negotiating table and at delegating another of his aides for blocking the sale of Chinese weapons to Iran. He said Iran has never bought military weapons from China, but added that when and where needed it would buy any brand of arms on the international market without asking the permission of this or that government.

Majlis speaker also ridiculed Reagan for labeling Iran as having had a hand in acts of political terrorism here and there in the world while only some months ago the U.S. President himself had said explicitly that he did not have any evidence proving Iran's hand in any such acts. He said Reagan's about-face in his attitude today in comparison with his attitude some months ago makes him a laughing stock in political circles. "They laugh at you," said Rafsanjani addressing himself to Ronald Reagan "they say you are showing old age senility, and that you do not know how to encounter the issues..."

Elsewhere addressing himself to Ronald Reagan the Majlis speaker said the Americans have seized many weapons paid for by Iran (during the government of the ex-shah) and have since the outbreak of the war refused to deliver them to Iran since basically they do not want to see Iran buying weapons. He said not only the Americans have since the triumph of the Islamic revolution refused to deliver the Iranian weapons in the United States but even demand payments for storing them in their arsenals. He said Washington had even sold many of the Iranian weapons paid for by Iran (during the past regime) to make sure that they would not reach Iran.

Elsewhere in his sermon Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani reflected on the situation in Afghanistan and said the Islamic Republic recently offerred a formula for restoring peace and stability to Afghanistan and for ensuring its people the right of self-determination, and the participation of the Mujahedin in talks for a peaceful settlement of the situation in that country.

Majlis speaker did not elaborate on the Iranian plan but said that thus far the Soviets have not rejected the Iranian formula, and that a segment of the Mujahedin had approved the plan as a starting point. He said the Iranian formula provides a solution to the problem in Afghanistan.

Rafsanjani also reflected on the situation [words indistinct] deploring the bloody clashes between a group of Syrians and Hizballah groups in Beirut. He said that the incident was a "conspiracy". He said the Syrians had told the Iranian officials that the clashes were not sanctioned by the Syrian Government, that they were merely the result of a wanton move and done on the spur of the moment. Rafsanjani said the official explanation by the Syrians seems plausible. He reminded also that the Hizballahs are the people who kicked the Americans and the French and the British out of Lebanon and that they are a people who are fighting with [as received] the Zionists in Lebanon today.

Rafsanjani said the friendship between the Hizballah and the Syrians should continue, since by relying on the solidarity between the two groups the supercilious world powers can be done away with in Lebanon. Rafsanjani also criticised Muslim heads of state for their silence over the visit to Cairo by the Zionist Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. He described Husni Mubarak and some other heads of Muslim states without identifying them in name as "cowards" who raised a ballyhoo at hearing Iran's purported buying of foreign-made weapons with the alleged mediation of an Israeli broker, and who are sitting back silently and only watching what is happening in Cairo.

Majlis speaker also thanked the people in towns and villages throughout the country for their civil defence operations against air raids by Iraqi war planes and also expressed appreciation to the people who have accommodated other people from war zones.

He also lauded Iran's Muslim combatants for their bold fighting in Karbala'-5 operations, and said all reports from the battle-fronts prove that the Iraqi forces have suffered a serious set-back and that a large portion of the Iraqi military hardware has been totally wrecked in the operations.

His summary report on the Karbala'-5 operations was repeatedly interrupted by the unanimous calls for "Allah o-Akbar" from worshippers as an expression of their support for the war effort.

Foreign Ministry Assails Reagan Statement

LD261727 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Wednesday statement on the Iraqi-imposed war and the 'danger' it poses to the so-called U.S. interests in the region, is aimed at distracting world public opinion from the reports of the U.S. investigation committee on the unfolding White House fiasco, announced the Foreign Ministry here Thursday.

In a statement the ministry condemned the biased U.S. stance vis-a-vis the war as well as Washington's assistance and support for the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to continue its legitimate defence until the root of aggression is weeded out and until peace and stability is restored in the region, said the ministry, adding that no power is able to force Iran to negotiate with the criminal Iraqi regime.

The Foreign Ministry said that empty U.S. threats coupled with the presence of its fleet in the region, will not only have no effect on the unbending will of the Iranian people but will further strengthen their determination to continue the holy defence.

Whenever Iran's Muslim combatants achieve new victories at the war fronts and inflict heavy blows on the enemy, arrogant powers issue such futile statements, in order to express political support for the criminal Iraqi regime with their military and financial aid, the Foreign Ministry concluded.

Khamene'i Notes Iraqi Defeats at Tehran Seminar

LD262315 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 26 IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Thursday that Iraqi bombardment of Iran's residential areas is the result of Ba'thist forces' weakness in the war fronts and Baghdad's subsequent halt to its bombardment was its total failure to attain its vicious goals through the counter-revolutionary Monafiqin Khalq Organisation (MKO). [sentence as received]

The president made the remarks in a seminar of the Friday prayer leaders of Tehran Province where he termed political and military difficulties of the enemy as other reasons which forced

it to stop its criminal acts. "Anyway we are fully prepared to face such inhuman acts of the Iraqi regime," said the Friday prayer leader of the capital.

On recent victories of the Iranian combatants at the war fronts, the president said that the success of the Muslim forces in Karbala'-5 and Karbala'-6 operations which destroyed powerful strongholds of the enemy in these regions were similar to a miracle.

Elsewhere in the seminar, President Khamene'i referred to the great role of the Friday prayers and said contribution to the public mobilisation, continued support for the war fronts and briefing the people on their sensitive responsibilities are useful outcome of the Friday prayers.

Musavi: Attacks on Hezbollah Serve Imperialism

LD261800 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Thursday morning that any attack on Lebanese Hezbollah is one serving the cause of imperialism.

Commenting on the massacre of more than 25 committed forces in west Beirut. The premier said that progressive forces were expected to have realised importance of devout patriotic groups who have committed themselves to promoting Islam and fighting against the occupying Zionist forces.

Speaking at the end of a session of the political council of the government, he added that it was likely that action was due to the obstinacy of certain individuals.

According to foreign dispatches, Syrian forces attacked buildings around the evacuated headquarters of Hezbollah, in west Beirut martyring more than 25 Shi'ite Muslims including six women and children.

Charge in Paris on 'Normalization' of Relations

PM261430 Paris LIBERATION in French 24 Feb 87 p 19

[interview with Gholam Reza Haddadi, Iranian charge d'affaires in Paris, by Marc Kravetz in Paris — date not given]

[Text] The "normalization" of Franco-Iranian relations has not reached deadlock. It is up to France to improve matters and speed things up. This is essentially the viewpoint put forward by Gholam Reza Haddadi, Iranian charge d'affaires, in an interview which he granted to *Liberation*. "The normalization process began after 16 March 1986, at the French Government's initiative," he told us, "and it is still moving in a positive direction." But, "France has only fulfilled part of the three conditions" set by Iran for relations between the two countries to return to normal.

These three conditions are known and the charge d'affaires repeated them firmly: "We are not asking for much," he said. "We want France to remedy its past mistakes. We want it to pay its debts, to be neutral in the Gulf conflict, and not to allow crimes (against Iran — *Liberation* editor's note) to be perpetrated on its territory." These three conditions seem to form a basis which is not negotiable and which Iran does not intend to accept as currency to be used at will in return for "gestures," particularly with regard to the fate of the French hosstages in Lebanon.

France has, of course, made a down payment of 330 million dollars the Eurodif loan (1 billion dollars loaned in 1976), but, Gholam Reza Haddadi stressed, this is "only a small part of the debt." "The French Government," he continued, "had guaranteed the repayment of the entire loan with interest. It did not do so and is putting forward illogical arguments (to justify its delay — *Liberation* editor's note)." Our interlocutor thinks it is clear that Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond's statement that France "expected more from Iran" (in the hostage affair — *Liberation* editor's note) is not a step in the "right direction."

He stressed forcefully that there can be no question of the payment of the French debt being seen as a "ransom." Nor can there be any question of changing part of the debt into credit for exports to Iran. "The Islamic Republic has always demanded cash payment of the whole loan with interest." Without specifying the total amount owed, the charge d'affaires estimated it to be "more than 2 billion dollars." Mr Haddadi said that Iran is "prepared to compensate French enterprises" which suffered losses in Iran.

According to our interlocutor, the second bone of contention is "the presence of some Iranian terrorists who have taken refuge in France." Although he refrained from naming any particular group, he clearly meant the Mojahedin-e Khalq whose leader, Mas'ud Rajavi, was asked to leave French territory in June 1986. The Iranian representative in Paris thinks that this veiled expulsion is not a satisfactory measure because these "terrorists," speaking from France have since claimed responsibility for attacks perpetrated in Iran. "The facilities they have under cover of their status as political refugees," he added, "might cause problems in the normalization process. We are asking France to adopt a responsible stance in this connection."

The Iranians have even clearer demands concerning the Gulf war — the third and most important bone of contention. "This country [Iraq] is the aggressor," Mr Haddadi reaffirmed, and its aggression has been recognized by French officials. "How can anybody declare his friendship for and alliance with an agressor?" "We demand French neutrality in this war which has been imposed on us. We demand an end to all military aid to Iraq, to this country which is threatening hundreds of villages, is bombing civilians, and using chemical weapons."

The French support for the peace plan proposed by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has clearly not shaken Iran's conviction. "How can anybody support these proposals," the charge d'affaires said sarcastically, "and then officially receive the aggressor country's defense minister? How can anybody call for peace while at the same time supplying arms to the aggressor?"

"After the Islamic revolution," Mr Haddadi said, "France could have had a special place in Iran if only because of Imam

Khomeyni's stay in your country. It could have replaced the United States and become our main Western partner. This did not happen because of misguided stances. Even our commercial relations have deteriorated since 1981. If these stances are changed, France will be able to have a share of the Iranian market, and you know that it cannot be compared with the other Gulf markets."

That is true, but is not each of the two countries deaf to the other? Not according to the charge d'affaires. "When the French officials launched the normalization process they said it was because of Iran's regional importance. It was not to settle the hostage affair. This question is entirely separate from Franco-Iranian relations."

And he concluded: "Our people are not neutral toward the nations which are hostile to them. French bombs are dropped on our cities every day. You can understand the Iranian people's feelings. Put yourself in their place."

Cooperation Talks With Pakistan, Turkey Begin

LD261845 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — The Economic Cooperation Committee (ECO) of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey started its three-day session here Wednesday with the participation of representatives of the three countries. In the opening session the Iranian representative was elected chairman of the session.

Eight reports by expert groups on the establishment of an investment bank, as well as expansion of cooperation among trade banks and insurance companies of the three countries were discussed.

The three ECO members also agreed to cooperate in the fields of transportation and shipping, posts, telecommunication and commerce.

WIH Chief Recounts Latest Offensive Figures

LD261911 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Dr Kamal Kharrazi, reiterating that destruction of the Iraqi war machine would continue, said that undoubtedly the current stands of foreign governments on the Islamic Republic and on the Iraqi-imposed war would be the basis of Iran's future relations with them.

Speaking to foreign diplomat missions in Iran here Thursday, the WIH head criticized certain countries supplying the Iraqi regime with warplanes and bombs, saying "these governments are either accomplices in the Iraqi crimes or their present political interests make them blind to the truth... it is wise for them to build the cornerstone of their future relations with iran now."

Referring to a film on Iraqi atrocities against the Iranian people, shown prior to his speech, Dr. Kharrazi asked "why does Iraq bombs Iranian cities and schools? Or why does Iraq set afire Iranian girls and boys with its cluster bombs?" The Iraqi regime vainly thinks that it can force Iran to discontinue its sacred defence by bombing cities and schools in particular or by massacring innocent children, Kharrazi said.

"But" with WIH head added "the result proved to be quite opposite to the Baghdad regime's had expectation when the Iranian people staged mass rallies on February 11, the eighth anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, demonstrating their firm determination to continue the war until victory."

Dr. Kharrazi also called on the foreign diplomats to completely and sincerely reflect to their governments, the Iranian people's spirit of resistance and their firm determination to continue the war until the final victory.

The WIH had also urged foreign diplomats to let their governments know that this nation (Iran) will continue its defensive war, unless and until its just demands are fully met.

He also called on the diplomatic audience to brief their governments on Iraqi atrocities against Iran such as the levelling to ground of Iranian school girls with cluster bombs.

"Why do you deny an oppressed nation (Iran) its right to fight the aggressor, which had occupied thousands of kms of its territory and had intended to destroy both the country and its Islamic revolution?" Dr. Kharrazi questioned.

He further asked "do you want to deprive our people from the right of pursuing and punishing the aggressor in his home, after it has already been driven out? Is this not the same thing that Europe did to Hitler and Nazism?"

The WIH head also censured certain governments for having failed to perform their duties in connection with the Iraqi-imposed war, noting "we believe that international bodies have ignored this issue. Some of these governments have neither dared to identify Iraq as the aggressor nor have they been bold enough to mention Iraq's use of chemical weapons."

More on the Iraqi use of chemical weapons, Kharrazi said that new steps should be taken at international level towards stopping (Iraqi) use of such legally-banned toxic weapons, as well as its bombing of Iranian cities.

It is a shameless deed, deplored the WIH head, that countries which are supplying internationally-banned chemical weapons to Iraq are trying some people on charges of attempting to export gas masks to Iran under the absurd pretext that their export to Iran is forbidden. "Is a gas mask an offensive weapon?" he asked.

"How long can the Iranian nation be silent towards those countries which are equipping Iraq with warplanes and bombs to bombard civilian people in iran?" he questioned.

Kharrazi reiterated that the Islamic Republic favors a lasting peace and believes that only the victory of Iran's Muslim forces in the Iraqi-imposed war will secure such a peace.

The WIH head then briefed the foreign diplomats on victories

achieved by the Muslim forces of Iran in the Karbala'-5 operations pointing to a sketch of the war theater. He said the Iranian combatants have broken through strongly fortified Iraqi defence lines in the war theater, liberating vast parts of the Fish Lake as well as Buvarian, Umm Tavil and Fayyaziyeh Islands. He stated that Iranian forces stationed in the liberated islands of Buvarian and Umm Tavil are only 400 meters away from Iraq's petrochemical plant.

In this region, Kharrazi said, the Iranian forces in addition to liberating as many as 150 sq. kms are continuing their destruction of the Iraqi war machine.

He said Iraq has put the maximum stakes in the Karbala'-5 operational theater and has despatched over half of its army (130 brigades) there because of the sensitiveness of that region. Some 73 Iraqi brigades and battalions were totally routed and their equipment was either destroyed or seized intact, he said.

Dr. Kharrazi added that fifty percent of 31 other Iraqi brigades and battalions were destroyed, noting that a total of 104 Iraqi brigades and battalions suffered damage ranging from 50 to 100 percent. He said that over half of the Iraqi Army has sustained serious damage.

Other achievements attained by the Iranian Muslim combatants in the Karbala-5 operations, launched on January 9, were listed by the WIH head as follows:

-Destruction of 650 Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers, and seizure of 200 others intact.
-Destruction of 1,500 military vehicles and seizure of 500 others.
-Destruction of 250 anti-aircraft guns and field artillery pieces and seizure of 85 others.
-Downing of 80 Iraqi warplanes and seven helicopter gunships.

-Capturing of 2,655 Iraqi POWs, including two brigadier generals, five brigade commanders with the ranks of colonel, 40 ranking officers, 240 other officers and 600 non-commissioned officers from 80 various military units.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,759

LD261630 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters in seven separate missions heavily bombed Iraqi troop concentration sites, armoured units and munitions dumps in the Karbala'-5 operational theater Thursday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops. The fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing missions which occured at 10:15, 10:21, 11:40, 12:07, 13:15 and 13:20 GMT. [six times as received]

Announcing the above, the 2759th communique of the Joint Staff Command of Iran's armed forces said that Iranian naval gun boats intercepted and inspected nine oil tankers and cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no suspicious cargo aboard.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy life and equipment losses in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants throughout the fronts Wednesday.

Iranian gendarmerie forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Wednesday killing a large number of enemy soldiers and destroying at least five bunkers and observation posts and one munitions dump of theirs.

A considerable number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements destroyed in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts Wednesday when their positions and logistical columns were hit by Iranian artillery fire. In Naft-e Shah, movement of an Iraqi logistical column was effectively checked.

In Hajj 'Umran, Marivan and Sardasht, northwestern fronts, convoys of Iranian patrols carried out several successful missions and returned safely to bases Wednesday.

Elsewhere, in the northwestern fronts, Muslim forces of Iran responded to Iraqi artillery fire Wednesday silencing enemy fire and destroying a large number of their bunkers.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts Wednesday, raging somewhat more heavily in Zayd. In Nahr 'Anbar and Hoseyniyeh, Iranian forces shelled enemy armoured units silencing their fire and inflicting substantial losses on them, the communique concluded.

Abadan, Khorramshahr Shelled

LD270924 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA — Iran's port cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr were under Iraqi shelling over the 48 hours preceding Friday morning. Announcing this, a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters also denied Iraqi claims Thursday that Iran had shelled Basra and that an Iranian F-4 fighter had been shot down by Iraq Thursday.

Afghan Mujahidin Support Velayati Proposal

LD262333 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — Jamiyat-e Eslami Afghanistan voiced support for the Iranian foreign minister's proposal for convening quadrilateral talks on the Afghan issue on condition that Afghan mujahidin will participate as the true representatives of their country. In a statement, released Thursday, the Jamiyat backed 'Ali Akbar Velayati's proposal made during his visit to the Soviet Union. Velayati had called for negotations among the Afghan mujahidin, as true representative of the Afghan people, the Soviet Union, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Jamiyat expressed hope that the tragedy of Afghanistan would end through negotiations in which Iran and Pakistan, the two Islamic countries interested in the fate of the Afghan people, will participate.